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ought but establish their reputation on more and more solid foundations. They were indeed giants, and by their side even the great men of subsequent periods become pygmies. The Constitution remains as their monument; a monument of the highest political wisdom then reached by the world. Whatever may happen to the country they founded, — whether it is destined to bless and enlighten mankind in the future as it has in the past, or whether it is destined to sink as other countries have sunk in the anarchy and oblivion produced by its own vices, — the fame of its founders will remain untarnished, and will be kept alive as the precious heirloom of the race wherever its institutions flourish.

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5. — *Egypt As It Is*. By J. C. McCOAN. With a Map, taken from the most recent survey. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1877. pp. xv, 417.

THE picture of Egypt given in this volume will strike most people with surprise. Like Wallace's Russia and Baker's Turkey, McCoan's Egypt is the work of an avowed admirer of the country to which the author's study has been devoted. Unlike these, however, it is but slightly descriptive, being almost altogether given up to statistics and information given in the most condensed form. Of the social life of Egypt Mr. McCoan has given nothing, for the sufficient reason, as he very modestly says, that this has been "photographed once for all by Mr. Lane, whose vivid portraiture of the manners and customs of both Arab and Copt is as true still as it was forty years ago." Owing to this necessary omission, the book is not as interesting for the general reader as, from its title, it might be expected to be. To the student of contemporary politics, to the historian, and to the diplomatist it is a mine of information hitherto inaccessible. Mr. McCoan's long residence in the Levant and frequent visits to Egypt qualify him to speak with authority about the country, and his account of the government, the system of administration, the relations of Egypt to Turkey, the finances, the schools, the system of agriculture, will be read with interest. That Egypt is heavily laden with debt he does not seek to deny, but he maintains that the debt, incurred as it has been to give Egypt those material advantages which alone could put her on a level with Western nations, was necessary, while the wasteful and corrupt administration which so swelled its volume is being rapidly replaced by a pure and efficient one. The Khedive he represents an energetic, intelligent, and public-spirited despot, and the future of Egypt he believes to be full of hope. The fact, however, which he adduces to support this hope,

the reformation of various branches of the service by trained Europeans imported for the purpose, and the supervision of the finances by Europeans in the interest of the public creditor, seem to make it hardly less than certain that when the end comes, and the slender link which now binds Egypt to the Porte is torn asunder, the present government must be absorbed in some way by one of the Western powers. That this power (now that the umbilical Suez Canal binds Egypt no longer to France) will be England, there is hardly room to doubt, any more than there is of the great benefit to the world that will accrue from such a termination of this branch of the Eastern question. There is no more enlightened government in existence than that of her dependencies and colonies by England as it is now carried on ; and there would be an historic justice of a sort that we see few instances of, were the cradle of ancient civilization, the birthplace of the sciences and arts, to fall to the share of an empire that is the European representative of all that is best in the civilization of the modern world.

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6. — *Count Frontenac and New France under Louis XIV.* By FRANCIS PARKMAN. Boston : Little, Brown, & Co. 1877. 8vo. pp. 463.

THIS volume forms the "fifth part" of Mr. Parkman's studies in the history of the French and English colonization of North America. The period embraced in the present volume begins with the year 1620 and extends to 1701 ; and therefore all the events in the history of New France from Frontenac's first appointment as governor to the ultimate triumph of his policy, — if anything in the history of France in America may be called a triumph. It is a period of quarrelling between governors, intendants, and priests, of Indian inroads and massacres, and vain attempts on the part of the home government to govern a colony as if it was a province, of irregular warfare with the English, and of a perpetual struggle for the fur-trade of the North. The narrative is marked by all the excellences of Mr. Parkman's style, — a style which, had it been employed upon a less narrow subject, would, unless we are much mistaken, have already won for Mr. Parkman a place among American historians as high if not higher than that of Bancroft or Motley. In the present volume it must be confessed this narrowness is a decided obstacle to the interest of the story. Embellished as it may be with episode and adventure, the history of the French in the New World in the seventeenth century is devoid of all deep historical meaning. It is the story of a powerful kingdom struggling against